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Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Canada

News Release ~ Communiqué

Beth Israel Cemetary in Sainte-Foy declared a historic site

Sainte-Foy, August 18, 1994 The Honourable Sheila Finestone, Secretary of State, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, today unveiled a plaque of the National Historical Sites and Monuments Board on behalf of the Honourable Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, commemorating the historical and architectural importance of the Beth Israel Cemetery.

The Beth Israel Cemetery, located at the intersection of Bon-Air Street and West René-Lévesque Boulevard in Sainte-Foy, is a truly representative example of the Jewish traditional burial lore. The rectangular site is 280 by 220 feet. It is enclosed and protected by fences. Graves are laid out side by side, in a straight line. Generally simple and sober, the tombstones are decorated with Hebraic symbols. A cultural and religious legacy, the Beth Israel Cemetery testifies to the Jewish mortuary beliefs and rituals.

The site also confirms the presence of a sizable Jewish community that goes back more than 200 years in Québec City. The first group of Jewish residents arrived between 1759 and 1784 and contributed greatly to the development of the new British Colony. They played a fundamental role in the struggle for constitutional freedom and political demands of the colonists.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, advises the Minister of Canadian Heritage concerning the commemoration of people, events or places of national historical significance for Canada.

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